Integrated Cereal Development Programme for wheat and coarse cereals in Gujarat to increase the production and productivity of cereal crops in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any noteworthy results have been achieved under the programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures that are being taken by Government to increase production of wheat and coarse cereals in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) is under implementation in Gujarat State from the year 1994-95. The emphasis under ICDP-Coarse Cereals in laid on the Cropping System for improvement in productivity of cereal crops including wheat, in the coarse cereals based cropping system areas of the State. The Scheme is being implemented in 170 identified blocks having low coarse cereals/rice/whcat productivity which is below State/National average and having comparatively larger area under cereal crops. Under the above scheme, assistance is provided to the farmers for seed distribution, field demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations, Improved Farm Implements, Farmer's training and Productivity awards etc.

(c) and (d) It is too early to assess the achievements of this programme. However there has been an increasing trend in the productivity of Wheat with yield recording an all time high of 2723 kg/ha in 1994-95. Under the ICDP Programme several frontline demonstrations have taken place with varieties like GW 173, Raj 1555, Gw 496, HI 1077 etc. which have shown good results with reference to production under different agro climatic conditions.

The production of coarse cereals has been fluctuating due to diversion of area to other remunerative crops as well as weather conditions. However, in Bajra, frontline demonstration with GHB 235, GHB-15 and GHB-183 (Hybrids) and demonstration in Jowar varieties like CSV-15 and CSV-14 have shown higher production potential.

(c) Government has introduced subsidy for use of hybrids under ICDP Coarse Cereals Programme. Apart from ICDP Govt, of India have also a programme for supply of seed minikits of high Yielding varieties of Wheat and Coarse Cereals in the State. The State is also covered under Technology Mission on Maize from 1995-96 omwards.

Functioning of Association of Indian Unvcrsitics

*497. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of Indian Universities is functioning directly under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location of its offices;

(c) whether some formalities have been prescribed to avail of different services being provided by the Association; and

(d) if so, the details, thereof separately, for each?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) No, Sir. The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) is a Voluntary Organisation of India Universities which is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

(b) The Office of Association of Indian Universities is located at 16, Kotla Marg, New Dclhi-110002.

(c) and (d) The Association, by virtue of being an Inter-Universitics Organisation, acts as a Bureau of information and facilitates communication, co-ordination and mutual consultation amongst universities in the following areas:

(i) Research into Higher Education

(ii) Equivalence & information Service
(iii) Youth Affairs
(iv) Sports
(v) University News Journal
(vi) Library & documentation
(vii) Publications. No formalities are prescribed.

Use of Chemicals Tor Ripening of Apples

*498. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that apple growers of Himachal Pradesh and other States arc using chemicals for fast ripening of apples;

(b) if so, what effects it has on the health of people who cat the chemically-treated apples;

(c) whether chemicals used for apples affect the trees also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes. Sir. The apple growers' have started use of 'Ethephon' for fruit ripening and colour improvement in apples.

(b) The apple fruits treated with 'Ethephon' with recommended doses do not have any adverse effect on human health.

(c) and (d) There is no adverse effect on the trees with the application of 'Ethephon' if the recommended doses arc used. However, with excessive doses, leaf and fruitfall may occur.

Subsidy To Fertilizer Industry

*499. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of subsidy to the fertilizer industry producing urea, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, for the last three years;

(b) whether the subsidy being provided to the fertilizer industry would be diverted to the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) who are the real beneficiaries of fertilizer subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Subsidy is paid by the Government only on fertilizers under Statutory Price Control, namely Urea. the subsidy paid on Urea during last three years is indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Subsidy paid
1993-94	4398.97
1994-95	5241.00
1995-96	6235.00

In addition. Government of India is paying concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to the farmers. An annexure indicating Statewise concession paid during last three years is enclosed. *[See Appendix 178, Annexure No. 77]*

(b) and (c) Subsidy/concession is meant for the farmers only. Since there is no mechanism to give it to the farmers directly, it is paid through Manufacturers/ suppliers, who claim the amount of concession from the Government after making the sales to the farmers.

(d) Farmers arc the real beneficiaries of fertilizer subsidy/concession.